

ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 3-21 and 27 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-26 and 28-33 are cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks (pages 19-21) filed on 13 March 2006, with respect to claims 3-21 and 27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert J. Webster on 02 October 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 22-26

Amend claim 16 as follows:

NB 10/20/06 On page 16⁹, line 6 delete "judging" and insert -- determining --